

Our Living Creed

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has never adopted a creed. This is not because we are without deep convictions in matters of fundamental Christianity, nor is it because we have been blown about by every wind of doctrine; it is rather because we believe that a gospel so rich and vital as the good news of Jesus defies our attempts to confine it in words and phrases. To attempt such a task would be like trying to measure the promise of youth with a foot rule, or to describe the glory of a sunrise to a blind person. Words are too inert. Only life can tell.

At the root of our religious experience is a glowing awareness of God. God Is. Of this we are sure. But all our attempts to describe him seem to limit him, and we dare not risk this. He is greater than our best thoughts of him. His love is richer than our highest expectations of him. We are continually discovering new causes for wonder in his greatness and his love. It is perfectly natural, therefore, for us to expect greater revelation from him as we grow in his likeness.

This expectation of the expanding revelation of truth and goodness, makes us unwilling to tie ourselves to a form of words in place of a living experience. We who belong to the church know what we believe. It is written in our lives. It becomes more clear there every day. But those who do not belong to the church only know *about* what we believe. We may try to describe our beliefs to them, but that is all that we can do.

In spite of our failure to crystallize our beliefs in the form of a creed, our deep convictions, as Latter Day Saints, have been evident to all who have known us in each generation. We have a living creed, which speaks louder than any words of the nature and quality of our beliefs.

One of the dominant notes of this living creed has been our passion for true freedom. We have caught from our Master the assur-

ance that the truth will make men free, and every great social and industrial issue has therefore found us voicing our belief in the freedom which comes through righteousness. Our living creed has its affirmation on slavery, temperance, education, industrial emancipation, war, and all other matters of social righteousness.

Our interest in the slavery question was not abated with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. He who has the mind and heart of a slave is still in bondage, even though a nation has redeemed him from physical serfdom. We are dedicated to the achievement of a greater liberty for all men.

Our interest in the temperance question has not been abated by the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment, or the various liquor control enactments. We are in the fight for prohibition to the limit of our strength, but no forced abandonment of liquor will satisfy us. Temperance is ultimately a thing of the spirit. We seek this finer temperance.

Our interest in the problems of education will not be abated by the passage of any legislation, no matter how inclusive. At best this will but clear the way. Education is a matter of creative understanding. It will best be promoted by inspiring men toward creative fellowship. We welcome this task of inspiration.

Similarly, our interest in the problem of peace is not limited to the signing of pacts against war. Peace is infinitely more than the absence of war; it is alert, and vital, and creative, and demands constructive sacrifices of its own. It can only be achieved by men of God. The building of the kingdom of God is its only guarantee.

The living creed of the church commits us to partnership with God in all that makes for true greatness among men. Because we know great things of God, we expect great things of men.

F. H. E.